

COUNTRY Greece

DATE: 25X1A6a

SUBJECT Views of General Plastiras

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ORIGIN [REDACTED]

SUPPLEMENT

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1. General Nicholas Plastiras now feels the situation is approaching an impasse and that Greece will soon recall him to head a temporary government. He believes he is the only person who can inspire both fear and confidence in the two extreme wings. Plastiras feels he could restore internal order in one month and then would prepare the country for truly free elections after which he would step down as he did twenty-three years ago. He sets two conditions on his acceptance of a call to head a temporary government: (1) that the British must not intervene in any internal affairs although American suggestions on policy and personnel would be welcome, and (2) that the United States must advance a loan necessary to keep the currency stable during his incumbency in exchange for long term concessions which he much prefers the United States to have. He states that he would not raise the issue of the monarchy but would leave all such matters to the government eventually to be elected. With the possible exception of Stefanopoulos, Plastiras would form a service Government including both moderate leftists and rightists. He recalls that Sofianopoulos was foisted on him by the British in 1945 and that it was also the urgent political necessity of former Prime Minister Churchill which prevented Plastiras from completely routing and disarming the Communists at that time. Short of a specific policy for the King to head the government, however, Plastiras is not planning anything at present.
2. Plastiras is antagonistic towards the British especially since British Ambassador Leeper forced him out in 1945 by the use of an "innocuous" old letter. Since then he has become convinced that the salvation of Greece lies only with the United States. He feels that the British have too many divergent stresses influencing their policy in Greece and not enough willingness nor resources to carry any plan to a successful conclusion. Plastiras considers that a true amnesty offered by one in whom the leftists have confidence as well as respect is most essential. Such an amnesty would be followed by a relentless campaign against any remaining guerrillas of either the right or the left.

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